THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Oil companies have proposal to open 33 SKO/LDO dealerships and 131 LPG distributorships in the Eastern part of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Oil companies have proposal to put up 5 SKO/LDO dealerships and 3 LPG distributorships in district Sultanpur and 5 LPG distributorships in Faizabad district. The delay has been on account of nonfunctioning of Dealer Selection Boards.

Commercial Exploitation of Natural Gas in Barmer District of Rajasthan

412. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether deposits of natural gas have been found in border district of Barmer in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of gas there; and

(c) by when commercial exploitation of these deposits is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Availability of LPG

413. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated plans for higher availability of LPG to every State during Ninth Plan;

(b) whether capacity of existing production sources are being increased for the purpose;

(c) the new plans proposed to be put up and projection made for the import of LPG on Ninth Plan;

(d) the State-wise increase proposed to be made in the supply of LPG in that plan period; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a). and (b) Yes, Sir. Capacity of some of the existing production sources is being augmented.

(c) The details of new LPG production sources proposed to be commissioned by end of IX Plan (2001-02) as per the present outlook are as under:

Refineries
1. Reliance Petroleum Refinery, Jamnagar
2. Essar Oil Refinery, Jamnagar
3. Numaligarh Refinery, Assam

Fractionations Plants
1. GAIL, Auraiya
2. GAIL, Gandhar

Based on the latest estimates for LPG production and demand proposed to be met by PSU Oil Companies, the surplus/ deficit projected for the IX Plan period may be as under:

Year	Surplus (Deficit) (TMT)
1997-98 (ACT)	(1087)
1998-99 (EST)	(1598)
1999-00 (EST)	(609)
2000-01 (EST)	(257)
2001-02 (EST)	36

(d) and (e) LPG demand to be met through PSU Oil Companies is expected to increase from 4.18 MMT during 1996-97 to 7.11 MMT during 2001-02 i.e., the terminal year of the IX Plan in the country. This demand is proposed to be met by and large in full through indigenous production and imports to the extent of shortfall in the indigenous availability. Supply to the states is made as per the demand through the distributors.